



MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 2, 2016

Florence Ely Nelson Desert Park
8950 E. Pinnacle Peak Rd
Scottsdale, AZ 85255

PRESENT: Chairperson Bob Frost, Commissioners Bobby Alpert, Steve Dodd, Commissioner Con Englehorn

ABSENT: Vice-chair Mike Milillo, Commissioners Jace McKeighan and Cynthia Wenstrom

STAFF: Bill Murphy, Kroy Ekblaw, Liz Hildenbrand, Yvonne Massman, Robert Graves, John Loleit, and Gary Meyers

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Frost called the meeting to order at 5:17 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members present as noted above.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The commission heard comments from Lorraine Montouri, Howard Myers, and John Holmes.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

COMMISSIONER ALPERT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 5, 2016 MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER DODD SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH WAS APPROVED BY A VOTE OF FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). VICE-CHAIR MILILLO AND COMMISSIONERS MCKEIGHAN AND WENSTROM WERE ABSENT.

5. MCDOWELL SONORAN CONSERVANCY UPDATE

Commission members heard an update from Mike Nolan.

6. DESERT DISCOVERY CENTER UPDATE (Discussion begins at 5:17)

Gary Meyers gave an update on the progress of the Desert Discovery Center. City Council approved the contract with the Desert Discovery Center Scottsdale, Inc. as the manager/operator for the DDC and created a new capital project and architectural contract funding and direction for staff to continue studying the Gateway location on January 11, 2016. An RFQ was issued and Swaback Partners was selected as the architectural design team. Public information meetings were held on April 20th and 21st and the proposal for architectural contract will go to City Council for approval on Tuesday, June 7th. DDCS will bring forward an "experience designer" for contract approval later in June. More public outreach will be scheduled in late spring of 2017 and a municipal use master site plan process will move forward and ultimately go to City Council for plan approval. Mr. Meyers noted that bed tax dollars have been allocated to pay for this portion of the process.

Howard Myers spoke in opposition to locating the Desert Discovery Center in the Preserve boundaries, noting that there is no provision in the Preserve Ordinance to accommodate the uses being considered for the DDC.

John Holmes spoke in opposition to locating the DDC in the Preserve Boundaries and suggested that it could be located at 94th Street and Bell Road.

7. CONSERVATION OPEN SPACE DISTRICT TEXT AMENDMENT (Discussion begins at 5:30)

Mr. Ekblaw presented the amendments to the Conservation Open Space District Text. He noted that language from the Preserve Ordinance was identified and incorporated into the purpose language of the Conservation Open Space draft. He reviewed a map depicting the areas proposed for Conservation Open Space and highlighted the Section 6.7031, Use Regulations. He asked that the Commissioners review the information for future discussion.

8. PRESERVE ZONING CASE (Discussion begins at 5:34)

Mr. Ekblaw reviewed the areas that are being zoned for Conservation Open Space, noting that the case has been initiated and will likely move forward in the fall once the Text Amendment case is completed. Should acquisition of Parcels 1 and 1a be successful, auction is anticipated to be scheduled for September 21, 2016.

9. STAFF UPDATES (Discussion begins at 5:37)

- Trails Update – Phase III

Mr. Ekblaw gave a brief presentation outlining the existing trails plan that is in place for the Phase III areas. The plan will be evaluated and updated over the summer with the assistance of a working team. Commissioner Englehorn committed to participating as part of the Trails Working Team.

- State Legislative summary – Fireworks, Drones

Mr. Ekblaw announced that the Fireworks legislation failed by a slim margin.

Ms. Hildenbrand gave an update on the drone legislation, noting that the FAA controls the airspace. The City plans to create an ordinance as part of chapter 20 of the Parks Ordinance that would control takeoff and landing locations. City regulations will not control the airspace that the drones fly in. It is possible that the FAA legislation could negate the City's ordinance in the future.

- Endowment Proposal Update

Chair Frost said that he, Jim Heitel, and Kroy Ekblaw presented the Endowment Proposal to City Council during a work study session and received unanimous Council Member approval. Staff has been directed to work with the legal department to fine tune the language. The proposal would go to the public vote for funds approval.

- Land Acquisition Update

Mr. Ekblaw noted that on May 11th the Planning Commission voted unanimously to support the State Land rezoning case, which is scheduled to go before City Council on July 5th. He reiterated that September 21, 2016 is the target date for auction.

- COS and Conservancy Annual Meeting to review 2015-2016 Season – Feedback

Ms. Hildenbrand thanked everyone who attended the annual meeting of the City of Scottsdale and the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy for their participation. Commissioners offered positive comments about the meeting and the importance of the City and the Conservancy working through communication challenges.

- Transportation Master Plan Update

Mr. Ekblaw gave a brief update on the Transportation Master Plan, noting that it will continue showing 128th Street for the time being, based on concerns about neighborhood access for construction vehicles. However, 128th Street status could be amended once neighborhood construction is complete.

- User Survey

Ms. Hildenbrand reviewed the data collected during the intercept survey.

- Pinnacle Peak Improvement Project

Ms. Massman gave a brief update on the progress of the storage area and restroom project at Pinnacle Peak, which is expected to be completed in approximately six weeks. She noted that the project is being funded by the Friends of Pinnacle Peak.

10. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

There were no Commissioner comments.

11. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Possible July 7th Meeting Items;

- Ecological Resource Plan (ERP)
- Land Acquisition Update
- Fraesfield, Granite and Pima/Dynamite Trailhead Planning Process
- Drone status
- Promotion Plan

Other Future Items;

- Desert Discovery Center
- Sunrise Parking and Restroom Evaluation
- Ecological Resource Plan (ERP)

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz.